



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
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Forest Service Reminds That Dog Leash Rule in Effect at Tie City Trails

(LARAMIE, Wyo.) November 28, 2011 – Users of the Tie City Recreation Area, just east of Laramie on Pole Mountain, are reminded that a leash rule for dogs is being publicized and enforced by the Laramie Ranger District.

After soliciting public opinion last fall and winter, the Forest Service announced in March its plan to address dog-related issues and increased winter use at the popular recreation area on the Medicine Bow National Forest.

Tie City is managed by the Forest Service as a designated recreation area with dogs required to be on a leash. The recreation area boundary includes the parking lot and the campground, as well as the section of trail between the lot and the campground. A leash rule for dogs applies to this area.

Unleashed dogs are allowed on the surrounding trail system, but need to be leashed through the parking lot and inside the fences and gates which surround the campground. During the winter months, the portion of groomed trail that falls inside the fenced perimeter is known as the Campground Loop.

Medicine Bow Nordic Association (MBNA), a special-use permit holder in the area, and the Forest Service are working together to encourage responsibility and courtesy by all users of the trails. It is recommended that dog owners use other areas on race days. Information about the variety of activities enjoyed in the area and the public's responsibility to accommodate multi-use has been stressed. Signage in the area has been improved and clarified.

The intent of the dog leash rule and increasing public education is to reduce conflicts between a variety of users at the popular area, including conflicts resulting from the large number of dogs on trails, and safety issues due to heavy use by the public.

The Tie City area on Pole Mountain is one of the most highly used recreation spots in the region during winter months. Located just off of Highway 210, the area features numerous trails that are popular with a wide variety of users.

Both experienced and inexperienced cross-country skiers, along with snowshoe enthusiasts, runners and hikers use the trails regularly.

The regulation of dogs in the Tie City area is a long-standing issue and the Forest Service would like to remind the public that it is ultimately the responsibility of dog owners to keep their pets under control and equally as important for non-dog owners to keep in mind the multi-use nature of public lands. All groups are urged to use common courtesy while recreating.

MBNA holds a special-use permit to conduct ski races and regularly groom a portion of the Tie City area trails. The groomed trails are also used for a variety of programs and lessons sponsored by the MBNA. The grooming directly benefits public use.

A U.S. Forest Service Season Pass or Day Use Parking Fee is required to use the Tie City parking area. A portion of those fees are used for ongoing maintenance of the area, including plowing.

Other similar areas within the Medicine Bow National Forest that are managed for winter recreation purposes include Chimney Park, Corner Mountain, Libby Creek and the Little Laramie trailhead. There are also two additional trailheads on Pole Mountain which access the trail system, Happy Jack and Summit.

For additional information on recreational use of the Pole Mountain area, please contact the Laramie Ranger District office at 307-745-2300 or visit <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>.

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